

Defensive Driving



Defensive driving is a form of training or practice for motor vehicle *drivers* to *drive* in such a way that they consciously reduce the dangers associated with *driving*. They do this by anticipating dangerous scenarios, which could range from bad weather to erring motorists.

Defensive Driving is essentially driving in a manner that utilizes safe driving strategies to enables motorists to address identified hazards in a predictable manner. These strategies go well beyond instruction

on basic traffic laws and procedures.

With defensive driving classes, students learn to improve their driving skills by reducing their driving risks by anticipating situations and making safe well-informed decisions. Such decisions are implemented based on road and environmental conditions present when completing a safe driving maneuver.

You've heard the term *defensive driving* tossed around a lot, but what does it really mean? Many people conjure up images of a slow, hesitant driver that only drives in the right lane and signals a block before turning. In reality, defensive driving is a set of good habits on top of your existing driver skills.

Most drivers haven't taken a driver's education or training classes, let alone defensive driving. What defensive driving teaches you is how to avoid accidents by recognizing and taking care of problems *before* they happen. Defensive drivers are pro-active rather than reactive, which means a solid driver is constantly taking in new information and acting on it if necessary.

Driving should not be dangerous or frustrating. Driving should be enjoyable, fun and safe, with proper training and high level of concentration.

To master the art of driving is an achievement in itself and if one can master the art of defensive driving, it indicates an extremely high level of control and concentration on the road. Basic driving skills involve mastery over the vehicle, but defensive driving means a lot more.

The main purpose of defensive driving is to ensure that the risk is minimized not just to the driver but to all others on the road, be it pedestrians or fellow drivers.

